business of pawnbrokers' published on page 8 of the same issue of the "Mail";

(*b*) whether the Government be pleased to state the number of people who have taken up the profession of the pawnbroker in the State and also the approximate business transacted by such people or institutions who do such business in the guise of private unregistered banks;

(*c*) whether the Police Department or any Civil or Criminal Court has received any complaint of people who have been duped by such pawnbrokers;

(*d*) if so, the total number of such cases within the last three years with the last day of Karkadagam 1115;

(*e*) whether the Government be pleased to introduce legislation on the model of the Madras Bill to control the business of pawnbrokers?

Mr. K. Achyuta Menon *(Secretary to Government):* (*a*) Yes.

(*b*) About 47 persons are reported to have taken up this profession. The approximate business transacted ranges from Rs. 50 to Rs. 10,000.

(*c*) No complaint has been received.

(*d*) No answer necessary in view of answer to (c).

(*e*) Government do not think that there is immediate necessity for legislation in the manner proposed.

S. I. R. COMPANY—VALUE OF SHARES AND DIVIDEND DECLARED

6. Mr. A. B. Salem *(Mattancheri):* Will the Government be pleased to ascertain and inform—

(*a*) the face value of an ordinary share of the South Indian Railway Company;

(*b*) the market value of such a share now;

(*c*) what was the last dividend declared on such an ordinary share by the Company?

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Mr. K. Achyuta Menon *(Secretary to Government):*

(*a*) £. 10.

(*b*) No information is available;

(*c*) A dividend of 4½ per cent was declared for the year 1939.

GOODS DELIVERED AT ERNAKULAM RAILWAY STATION—TERMINAL CHARGES—APPORTIONMENT OF

7. Mr. A. B. Salem *(Mattancheri):* Will the Government be pleased to inform.—

(*a*) whether there is any terminal charges imposed on goods traffic by the South Indian Railway Company on goods delivered at Ernakulam Station;

(*b*) if so, what is the actual terminal charge collected during the years 1937, 1938 and 1939;

(*c*) does the Company pay the whole or any portion of this terminal charge (if any is levied) to our Cochin Government;

(*d*) will the Government be pleased to inform to whom is this terminal charge, if any, is levied, credited?

Mr. K. Achyuta Menon *(Secretary to Government):*

(*a*) Yes.

(*b*) Terminal charges are not separately recorded but are credited to the Railways concerned together with the freight charges. Hence the figures of actual terminal charges collected cannot be furnished.

(*c*) The terminal charges collected at Ernakulam on traffic booked to or from Ernakulam are credited in full to the State Railway earnings.

(*d*) Vide answer to sub-division (*c*).

Mr. A. B. Salem *(Mattancheri):* May I know, what is the rate of terminal charge?

Mr. K. Achyuta Menon *(Secretary to Government):* They vary with commodities. Ordinarily 6 pies.

Mr. A. B. Salem *(Mattancheri):* For how much?

Mr. K. Achyuta Menon *(Secretary to Government):* 6 pies per maund.

Mr. A. B. Salem *(Mattancheri):* Answer to (*c*) is that the whole terminal charges are credited; answer to (*b*) is that you do not know what the charges are.

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